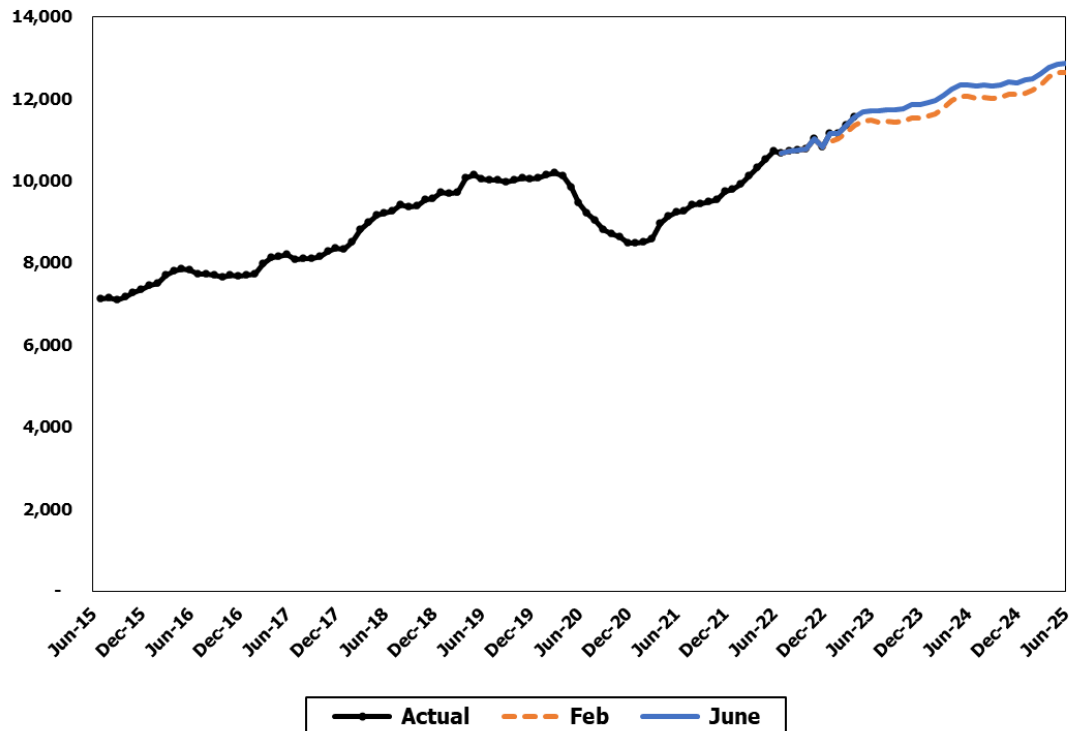


# Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

Caseload Forecast Council  
June 14, 2023

## Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) (Unofficial Courtesy Forecast)



The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (ESIT) coordinates and provides services for eligible infants and toddlers and is administered by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The ESIT caseload is defined as the number of children with active Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). Children are evaluated and become eligible if found to have specific developmental delays. As of September 1, 2020, ESIT includes state funded services previously provided through Special Education Birth to Age 2.

### Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Feb-23 Forecast	Jun-23 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2023	11,012	11,106	94	0.9%
2024	11,649	11,951	302	2.6%
2025	12,226	12,503	277	2.3%

Compared to February, the June 2023 forecast is, on average, 94 cases or 0.9 percent higher for FY 2023 and 289 cases or 2.4 percent higher for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Forecast Contact:  
Paula Moore  
360-664-9376  
paula.moore@cfc.wa.gov

### Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Feb-23		Variance	Percent
	Forecast	Actual		Variance
Jan-23	10,954	11,156	202	1.8%
Feb-23	11,026	11,138	112	1.0%
Mar-23	11,176	11,343	167	1.5%
Apr-23	11,349	11,544	196	1.7%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 169 cases or 1.5 percent above the February forecast.

### Fiscal Year Caseload Change

Fiscal Year		Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2016	7,436		
	2017	7,832	396	5.3%
	2018	8,500	668	8.5%
	2019	9,649	1,149	13.5%
	2020	9,991	342	3.5%
	2021	8,808	-1,182	-11.8%
	2022	9,849	1,041	11.8%
Forecast	2023	11,099	1,250	12.7%
	2024	11,895	796	7.2%
	2025	12,429	534	4.5%

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a sharp decline in the ESIT caseload starting in March of 2020. The program experienced reductions in referrals, entries, and active participants. The decline ended starting in January 2021, and growth returned as vaccines became available for providers and adult caregivers. In total, for FY 2021, the ESIT caseload declined by 11.8 percent due to COVID-19. That loss was reversed in FY 2022, with 11.8 percent growth. The ESIT caseload is forecasted to grow in FY 2023 by 12.8 percent. The forecasted growth averages 6.1 percent per year in the 2023-25 Biennium.

### Risks to the Forecast

Risks to the June 2023 forecast are higher than normal because of uncertainty due to provider availability, birth rates, and net in-state migration. Historically, changing birth rates and policy changes have been the largest drivers of this forecast.